

Edgcumbe Presbyterian Church

Midweek Update

Nov 11, 2020

In this issue: Unlearning: Dorice Lessons, Two Mtgs,
Staff Time Off, Finance, Zoom, Thanksgiving Giving



Unlearning: Lessons from Dorice Van

Vorst

Dorice VanVorst died in her room at Lyngblomsten on this past Sunday morning, November 8, 2020. She had been a member of EPC since...a long time ago (I'm not at church so can't look it up!), attending weekly worship until 2008 when the balance issues of old age made it too much to drive or get out. **We will have a short service of remembrance and hope for Dorice at the beginning of our worship service on this Sunday, Nov. 15, at 10am.**

Visiting Dorice the day before she died was a lovely experience for both me and Pastor Luna. As soon as we entered the room, two things were immediately apparent. One, Dorice did not have long to live, and two, Dorice was beautiful--luminescent even. So there is one lesson from Dorice: Death and peaceful beauty can go hand in hand. Death is not an ending but a transition, from light to light.

What happened next was that Luna and I both leaned over Dorice, put our hands gently on her and said, "It's Pastors Phil and Luna, Dorice. We're here and we love you very much!" Dorice stirred from sleep and mumbled very clearly, "I love you; I love you too." We told her over and over that we loved her and that we brought the love and prayers of the Edgcumbe Church community. Lesson two from Dorice: Love makes everything better.

Then we sat together. Luna suggested we sing to Dorice. I resisted briefly (you know how I hate to sing...), but then relented and we started with, "When peace like a river attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll, Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul." Dorice's remained still, but a tear formed at the corner of her eye. Lesson three from our dear sister Dorice: When the going gets tough, there's nothing like the peace of God (and a good song) to bringing healing to our minds and hearts. Thank you, Dorice.

Two Meetings!

All are welcome to the following gatherings:

- **Wednesday gathering tonight @ 7pm on Zoom.** Ruth Anderson will host a time of sharing and support. Use the Zoom link on our church website.
- **Mission Meeting next Monday November 16 @ 7 pm on Zoom.** We will be discussing the Christmas Eve offering and monthly missions for 2021. If you are interested in joining the group, contact Eleta and she will include you on the Zoom invite (612-719-0758 or eleta.pierce@gmail.com).

Staff time off

Both Pastors and Jenya will be taking off the last two weeks in November. Plan on all of our usual Zoom gatherings continuing during that time. Worship on November 22 will be a pre-recorded service from leaders in our denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and Nov. 29 will be a Thanksgiving-themed service led by folks in our community.

Financial Update

The Session will begin the 2021 budgeting process this month. It is essential that we have an accurate estimate of income for the year as we proceed. I have asked Krysta to send out pledge cards to all members and to non-members who contribute (going out later this week). Please return the pledge cards as soon as possible, or you can email Krysta directly at epchurch2149@gmail.com.

Thank you, Ron Eggert, Treasurer

Zoom Schedule & Recordings

We have four Zoom meetings scheduled for our congregation for each week. All of these meetings are open to you and to everyone. Here is our current schedule:

- Sunday morning Worship at 10am
- Sunday evening Bible Study at 6:30pm
- Tuesday Centering Prayer at 3pm
- Wednesday evening Gathering at 7pm

Thanksgiving Meal & Giving Opportunities

For over 30 years, Edgcumbe Church served a meal to people at the Montreal Highrise on Thanksgiving Day. That tradition ended last year but now we have two new ways to participate in gratitude and giving.

Free Thanksgiving Meal Already Cooked - Register Now!

Neighborhood Food Market, in conjunction with St. Joseph's Church in West St. Paul are offering a free, fully-cooked takeout Thanksgiving meal. The meal includes: 1 serving of turkey, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, stuffing, cranberries, rolls with butter, and pumpkin pie. Families can order as many individual meals as they need. Pickup will be on Thanksgiving, November 26, at St. Joseph's Church, 1154 Seminole

Ave, West St. Paul, MN 55118, and it will be drive-up service where you stay in your vehicle. **To receive this meal you must pre-register by November 18 by calling (651) 789-2534.** If you would like to have a meal but aren't able to pick it up, please reach out to Eleta Pierce and pickup and delivery will be arranged. (612-719-0758 or eleta.pierce@gmail.com) *EPC folk--to be clear--you are welcome to sign up for this meal for yourself or your family, and / or you could pass on this information to someone you know who could use such a meal.*

Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Food Bag Drive

One of our Elders was spotted this week in a "Minute for Mission" of sorts on KSTP Ch. 5 News for Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Food Bag Drive. Every year Union Gospel Mission, with the help of local businesses, individuals and faith communities, provides thousands of bags of Thanksgiving food to individuals and families in the Twin Cities area. In years past, people would purchase the items on specific shopping list and then UGM would add a turkey and pie to these bags for the community. This year because of the pandemic things look different and Union Gospel Mission has decided to do the shopping. Also because of the pandemic, they are expecting to provide meals to a record number of people this year so the need for cash donations is great. To find out more about this mission and to see if you can "spot the Elder," here is the link to the story: <https://www.kstp.com/minnesota-news/union-gospel-mission-twin-cities-hold-food-drive-thru-for-thanksgiving-5915737/?cat=12196> If you would like to give to Union Gospel Mission's Thanksgiving Bag Drive, **or if you could use one of these bags for Thanksgiving and would like to register to receive one,** go here: <https://www.ugmtc.org/2020/11/thanksgiving-food-distribution-set-for-nov-23-24/>